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School Committee Minutes 02/24/2004

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2004
7:30 PM

Present: Suzanne Owayda, Chair
Paul Schlichtman, Vice Chair
Joani LaMachia, Secretary
Barbara Goodman

Sue Sheffler
Jeff Thielman
Martin Thrope

Supt. Kay Donovan
CFO: Rob Addelson
Asst. Supt. Joanne Gurry
Sp. Ed. Director Marilyn Bisbicos

Call to order: 7:40 pm

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None

SPECIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Participants in the Special Education Workshop: Marilyn Bisbicos, Special Education Director, Shelley Selwyn, Assist. Director Special Education, Peg Callanan, CET Leader, Chris Cronin-Tocci sped teacher, Trish Orlovsky chair of Sp.Ed. PAC, Mary Ronan, Finance Committee, Joan Axelrod.

The budget subcommittee compiled a list of questions to be addressed at the workshop. Special Education Director Marilyn Bisbicos reviewed the APS fact sheet explaining that currently there are 688 students ages 3-22. 544 students are in district, 88 students are in out-of-district- special education placements, 56, students in out-of-district parent placements. APS currently employs 95.3 staff. Dr. Bisbicos explained the process of how an IEP (Individual Education Program) works, and what standards are used to measure progress.

The working group discussed:

- " Who monitors the delivery services on an IEP.*
- " How APS can provide Special Education services on a regional basis.*
- " What impact "No Child Left Behind" has had on Special Education personnel needs*
- " The impact of staff reductions in Special Education specifically the reduction of one Central Evaluation Team (3 FTE) and the reduction to a .60 Assist. Director*
- " How Special Education services would be affected during the Dallin closing*
- " How costs and programming would be affected by redistricting*
- " The impact of budget cuts on programs and parents' response/perception to changes*

The results of a survey on APS legal costs compared with other communities is expected within two weeks.

Assignment on Superintendent Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Suzanne Owayda announced the members of the ad hoc committee; herself as chair along with Paul Schlichtman and Joani LaMachia. Suzanne emphasized that the task is daunting and that there would be opportunities for all members to participate in the process. Referencing the vote of the Committee from the previous meeting Ms. Owayda stated that the charge of the ad hoc committee would be to recommend a timeline, determine if an outside firm should be hired, and coordinate a community-based search. The subcommittee shall report to the full committee for approval of the process for the selection of the new superintendent. The subcommittee shall dissolve upon the hiring of a new superintendent.

Break

Peirce Field

Town counsel John Maher highlighted, reviewed, and explained the changes and proposed amendments in the agreement with the Industrial Parties on Peirce Field for the School Committee. Mr. Thrope asked for clarification on the foundation issue and the breeching of the barrier if there is a field house built in the future. Mr. Maher stated that he would seek clarification on the issue.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously
Voted that the School Committee approve the amendments to the Peirce Field agreement and recommend it to Town Meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget

Mr. Schlichtman reported on the budget subcommittee meeting held the previous evening. Mr. Schlichtman brought to the Committees' attention an e-mail from MASC clarifying school committee member's (who are not part of that particular subcommittee), participation in subcommittee meetings. Mr. Schlichtman also noted the minutes of the meeting and expects that the next subcommittee meeting will take place sometime in March.

Policy & Procedures

Mr. Thielman presented policies ADC, BGC and JJIC to the committee for a 1st reading. Mr. Schlichtman suggested a language change in Policy ADC. The Committee will vote the policies at the next meeting. Mr. Thielman also noted that the subcommittee continues to work on the food allergy policy. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, at 4:00 PM.

Redistricting Advisory Team

Ms. Sheffler reported that the advisory team met and discussed:

.. The GIS/mapping software will be complete in March.

.. The Redistricting Task Force will generate scenarios for modeling over the next several months.

.. A May 1 objective has been set to determine ideal long-term redistricting boundaries for 7 neighborhood schools. Rob Addelson is working on integrating the current school data and census data into software that will enable us to model different districting scenarios.

The Team approved recommendations as follows for submission to the full School Committee;

a.) Once established and approved, new boundary lines will affect only new incoming families for fall 2004, including K level students who do not yet have siblings in the schools.

b.) Current families will be encouraged to voluntarily move to their newly established school districts.

c.) The "grand-fathering issue" will be tabled for the 2004/2005 school year and will be re-addressed for the 2005/2006 school year.

.. Future meetings will be Tuesday 3/9 at 9:15 am in the School Committee Room and Wednesday 3/24 at 9:15 am in the Guidance Conference Room.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously

Voted to support the direction of the Redistricting Advisory Team subject to proving the feasibility by May 1st.

Specialized Student Services

Trish Orlovsky chair of the Arlington Sped Pac and Bonnie Bisbicos reported on the status of the proposed Transition Academy; after discussion it was decided that at this point there are too few interested participants to run a program.

The subcommittee voted to recommend to the full committee that the school committee is eager to collaborate with other town agencies in order to develop an inclusive summer experience for special needs students.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded it was unanimously

Voted to support the recommendation of the subcommittee to collaborate with other town agencies in order to develop an inclusive summer experience for special needs students

The subcommittee voted to thank Trish Orlovsky for her effort on the Transition Academy

The suggested budget questions from the Budget Subcommittee regarding Special Education were reviewed.

BUDGET

CFO Rob Addelson reviewed the revisions to recommended FY05 School Budget. Mr. Addelson explained that the budget figure voted by the Committee of \$32,385,293.00 on February 10th was understated by a net figure of \$47,319.00. The primary changes are increased costs of \$25,000.00 for the LSP to advise on Peirce Field, \$25,000.00 for the superintendent search and \$38,000.00 for estimated busing costs associated with the Dallin rebuild. It did not reduce the energy budget by \$25,000 and did not include a reduction in debt service of \$12,000.00.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman, seconded by Mr. Thielman it was unanimously

Voted the revised budget figure for the FY05 School Budget to \$32,432,612.00.

PTBC UPDATE

Ms. Owayda stated that the Infrastructure Committee would meet on Thursday, February 26th in the School Committee Room at 6:30 pm.

The PTBC has been working with Sustainable Arlington on some of the designs and criteria to help the Dallin School become LEEDS (Leadership in Energy Environmental Design) certified.

Chris Grande from Sustainable Arlington explained to the School Committee the low term cost benefits of the Dallin School being a Green Building and LEEDS certified. Mr. Grande requested that the school committee support the effort with the PTBC to have the Dallin School become the first LEEDS certified building in Arlington.

Supt. Donovan and Committee members questioned if there are any additional costs in doing so and pointed out that the PTBC must confer with the designer DRA to explore the magnitude of any changes.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman, seconded by Mr. Thrope it was unanimously

Voted that the Arlington School Committee, to the extent possible, recommend to the PTBC that they strive towards achieving a LEEDS certified school as practicable as possible in the design of the Dallin School.

New Business

“ Ms. Owayda informed Members that Kathleen Dias of the Board of Selectmen will establish a committee to study PAYT/Recycling and is seeking a representative from the school committee. Interested members may contact the chair.
” Rob, DiLoreto, AHS Athletic Director has been selected as the **Theodore “Ted” Damko Award** by MSSADA.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was
Voted to enter executive session for the purpose of negotiations with no further business to be conducted upon return to open session except to adjourn. Roll Call: Unanimous
Executive Session 10:55 – 11:20 pm.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Mr. Thrope it was unanimously
Voted to adjourn @ 11:20 pm.